

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/021,550

Examiner

Peter Poltorak

Applicant(s)

KISHIMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment received on 5/22/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-8, 17-18 and 21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 8/3/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Jacques Louis Jacques
JACQUES LOUIS JACQUES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 5/22/06.

Examiner Amendment

2. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

The following changes were authorized (and permission to make same by Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Keith George on 3/8/06.

3. Please cancel claims 3 and 19.
4. Please replace claims 1, 4 and 17 as follows:

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1. A storage system comprising:
a storage device for storing data files to be accessed by one or more users; and
a storage management system for managing the storage device, the storage management system comprising:
a management object for controlling management access in response to a request from a manager connected to the storage management system through a network, said management object authenticating a second manager ID and a second

password received through the network from the manager, in accordance with a first ID and a first password stored beforehand to authenticate the manager;

a storage configuration information file containing settings of the storage system with respect to operation of the storage device; and

a temporary software interface object for accessing the settings in the storage configuration information file through the network, said temporary software interface object to be created by said management object when both authentication of the second manager ID and authentication of the second password by said management object succeed, and to be expired after a predetermined permission time, wherein:

the authenticated manager's access to the settings contained in the storage configuration information file is permitted only while the temporary software interface object exists,

said management object transmits a key, comprising a randomly generated address of the temporary software interface object needed for communication through the network with the temporary software interface object, to the authenticated manager to enable management access to the storage configuration information file, and

said temporary software interface object permitting an access to the settings in the storage configuration information file is erased after lapse of said predetermined permission time so as to expire access by the authenticated manager.

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4. A storage system according to claim 3 1, wherein:

the temporary software interface object created for the authenticated manager enables use of a subset of management functions available through the storage management system when accessing the storage configuration information file; and

the subset of management functions is defined by a stored information file for the authenticated manager from among a plurality of individualized stored information files for a plurality of managers.

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17. A storage management method comprising:

providing user access to data files stored in a storage device of a storage system, based at least in part on settings of the storage system contained in a storage configuration information file accessible via a storage management system;

authenticating a second manager ID and a second password received by the storage management system from a manager through a network, in accordance with a first ID and a first password stored beforehand, to authenticate the manager;

creating for the authenticated manager a temporary software interface object at the storage management system needed for accessing the storage system settings contained in the storage configuration information file through the network, when both authentication of the second manager ID and authentication of the second password succeed, wherein the authenticated manager's access to the settings contained in the storage configuration information file is permitted by the storage management system only while the temporary software interface object exists;

transmitting a key, comprising a randomly generated address of the temporary software interface object needed for communication through the network with the temporary software interface object, to the authenticated manager to enable management access to the storage configuration information file; and erasing the temporary software interface object after a lapse of a predetermined permission time, so as to expire the authenticated manager's ability to access the settings in the storage configuration information file.

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Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

5. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 17-18 and 21 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

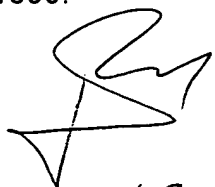
6. The closest discovered prior art Huang (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,361) does not disclose "temporary software interface object to be created by said management object when both authentication of the second manager ID and authentication of the second password by said management object succeed".
7. Another closest prior art Osman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,721) does not disclose that "management object transmits a key, comprising a randomly generated address of the temporary software interface object needed for communication through the network with the temporary software interface object, to the authenticated manager to enable management access to the storage configuration information file".

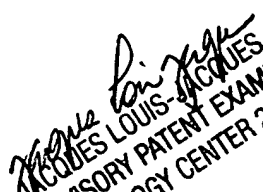
The prior art, fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitation of applicant's independent claims, in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. As a result the claimed invention is considered to be in condition for allowance as being novel and non-obvious over prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Poltorak whose telephone number is (571) 272-3840. The examiner can normally be reached from Monday through Thursday from 9:00 until 5:00, and every other Friday from 9:00 until 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques Louis Jacques can be reached on (571)272-6962. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.


8/3/06


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